



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,507	08/25/2003	Vijay Mital	MSFT-1948/301410.01	4233
41505 7590 02/08/2007 WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2929 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891			EXAMINER RADTKE, MARK A	
			ART UNIT 2165	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE			MAIL DATE	
3 MONTHS			02/08/2007	
			DELIVERY MODE PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/648,507		MITAL ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Mark A. X Radtke		2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

RCE filed

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on 6 December 2006, claim(s) 1, 8, 13-14 and 16 is/are amended per Applicant's request. Therefore, claims 1-24 are presently pending in the application, of which, claim(s) 1, 8 and 16 is/are presented in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tracey (U.S. Pat. No. 6,795,071).

As to claim 1, Tracey teaches a method for associating an application entity managed by an application with a plurality of related service entities managed by a

Art Unit: 2165

plurality of application services, the application maintaining application metadata corresponding to the application entity, the application services maintaining service metadata corresponding to the related service entities (see Abstract), the method comprising:

- matching the related service entities based on the service metadata (see column 8, lines 26-47);

- combining the related service entities into a context entity that is a single entity derived from one or more service entities (see column 18, lines 37-50);

- combining service metadata corresponding to the context entity into context metadata (see column 20, lines 21-23);

- matching the application entity to the context entity based on the application metadata and the context metadata (see column 21, lines 12-26);

- determining a state of each service entity within a corresponding business process administered by the application service that manages the service entity (see column 22, line 47 and columns 23-24, Table 1);

- determining dynamic actions available on the related service entities, the available dynamic actions comprising an indication of whether a state change is available on each service entity within its corresponding business process (see column 31, lines 3-18 and columns 31-35, "Event Generation"); and

- generating a display of the state of each service entity within its corresponding business process and the available dynamic actions (see column 31, lines 3-18).

Art Unit: 2165

As to claims 2 and 18, Tracey teaches wherein matching the related service entities comprises matching the related service entities based on attributes of the related service entities (see column 8, lines 26-47).

As to claims 3 and 9, Tracey teaches wherein matching the application entity to the context entity comprises matching the application entity to the context entity based on attributes of the application entity and attributes of the context entity (see column 31, lines 42-55).

As to claims 4, 11 and 23, Tracey teaches further comprising obtaining service metadata corresponding to the related service entities (see columns 23-24, Table 1).

As to claims 5, 12, 21 and 22, Tracey teaches wherein obtaining the service metadata corresponding to the related service entities to the application comprises:

determining at a context service static actions available on the related service entities (see column 27, lines 16-21); and

querying an action service to determine dynamic actions available on the related service entities (see columns 29-30, "Menus").

As to claim 6, Tracey teaches further comprising providing the service metadata corresponding to the related service entities to the application (see columns 23-24, Table 1).

As to claims 7 and 13, Tracey teaches wherein providing the service metadata corresponding to the related service entities to the application comprises providing static and dynamic actions available on the related service entities to the application (see column 31, lines 3-18).

As to claim 8, Tracey teaches a method for managing at an application a first service entity at a first application service (see Abstract), the method comprising:

For the remaining steps of this claim applicant(s) is/are directed to the remarks and discussions made in claim 1 above.

As to claims 10 and 17, Tracey teaches comprising identifying that the associated context entity is derived from the first service entity and a second service entity at a second application service, the first service entity being related to the second service entity (see column 17, lines 58-60).

As to claims 14 and 24, Tracey teaches wherein managing the first service entity at the application using the service metadata comprises:

generating at the application a display of the static and dynamic actions available on the first service entity (see column 31, lines 3-18); and

selecting from the display at the application an action to be performed on the first service entity at the first application service (see columns 31-35, "Event Generation").

As to claim 15, Tracey teaches further comprising:
forwarding the selected action to the first application service; and
performing the selected action at the first application service (see column 15, lines 45-54).

As to claim 16, Tracey teaches a system for managing at an application a first service entity at a first application service (see Abstract), the system comprising:

For the remaining steps of this claim applicant(s) is/are directed to the remarks and discussions made in claim 1 above.

As to claim 19, Tracey teaches wherein the context entity is derived from the first service entity and the second service entity (see Examiner's comments regarding claim 1).

As to claim 20, Tracey teaches wherein said context service provides the first service metadata and the second service metadata to said application, the first service metadata enabling the first service entity to be managed at said application, the second service metadata enabling the second service entity to be managed at said application (see column 15, lines 31-54).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 6 December 2006 with respect to the rejected claims in view of the cited references have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds for rejection.

Additional References

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of art with respect to workflow management in general:

<u>Doc. No.</u>	<u>Assigned to</u>
US 6033226 A	Bullen; George Nicholas
US 6031528 A	Langfahl, Jr.; J. Craig
US 6798413 B1	Tracey; James B. A. et al.
US 5870545 A	Davis; James W. et al.
US 4091550 A	Schrenk; Lorenz P. et al.
US 6122633 A	Leymann; Frank et al.
US 6772407 B1	Leymann; Frank et al.
US 6371765 B1	Wall; Robert S. et al.
US 20030028676 A1	Pangrac, David M. et al.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to the examiner, Mark A. Radtke. The examiner's telephone number is (571)

Art Unit: 2165

272-7163, and the examiner can normally be reached between 9 AM and 5 PM,
Monday through Friday.

If attempts to contact the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,
Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached at (571) 272-4146.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to Customer Service at (800) 786-9199.

maxr

4 February 2007

Tm
215107.


JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100